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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



# PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™



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CRIMSON DUST  
OF DEATH!



While studying a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the spider's powers, and had, in effect, become a human spider.

Stan Lee  
Presents

# THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!

## SECRET AS THE GRAVE!

IN THE EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM, THE CADAVEROUS CARRION HAS JUST MADE A MOST STARTLING PRONOUNCEMENT...

I CHARGE YOU, SPIDER-MAN, WITH THE COLD-BLOODED MURDER OF GWEN STACY AND PROFESSOR MILES WARREN!

OH, MY GOD... I WAS RIGHT! YOU ARE A PSYCHO!

JESTING FOOL! LAUGH WHILE YOU MAY... FOR THE MOMENT OF RETRIBUTION IS AT HAND!

THIS, WHILE THE WHITE TIGER AND CARRION'S HENCHMAN, DARTER, BATTLE IN THE BACKGROUND... THE FINAL CONFRONTATION BEGINS!

BILL MANTLO  
WRITER

JIM MOONEY  
ARTIST

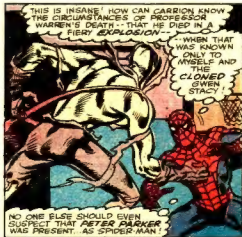
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INKER

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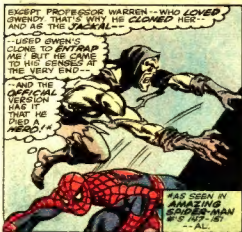
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THIS IS INSANE! HOW CAN CARRION KNOW THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROFESSOR WARREN'S DEATH-- THAT HE DIED IN A FIERY EXPLOSION--

--WHEN THAT WAS KNOWN ONLY TO MYSELF AND THE CLONED GWEN STACY!

NO ONE ELSE SHOULD EVEN SUSPECT THAT PETER PARKER WAS PRESENT. AS SPIDER-MAN!



EXCEPT PROFESSOR WARREN--WHO LOVED GWENDY. THAT'S WHY HE CLONED HER-- AND AS THE JACKAL--

--USED GWEN'S CLONE TO ENTRAP ME! BUT HE CAME TO HIS SENSES AT THE VERY END--

--AND THE OFFICIAL VERSION HAS IT THAT HE DIED A HERO!

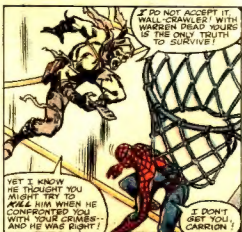
\*AS SEEN IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #517-51!-- AL



MILES WARREN DIED ATTEMPTING TO AVENGE YOUR MURDER OF GWEN STACY, INSECT!

I'VE BEEN CLEARED OF THAT, RAG-BASS!

THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS IT WAS THE GREEN GOBLIN WHO MURDERED GWEN! EVERYONE ACCEPTED THAT!



I DO NOT ACCEPT IT, WALL-CRAWLER! WITH WARREN DEAD YOURS IS THE ONLY TRUTH TO SURVIVE!

YET I KNOW HE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT TRY TO KILL HIM WHEN HE CONFRONTED YOU WITH YOUR CRIMES-- AND HE WAS RIGHT!

I DON'T GET YOU, CARRION!



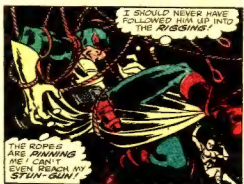
YOU KNOW THINGS-- EVEN MY SECRET IDENTITY-- THAT NO ONE SHOULD KNOW, BUT YOUR INFORMATION'S FLAWED!

OTHERWISE YOU'D KNOW THAT PROFESSOR WARREN WAS ALSO THE DEADLY JACKAL!

OF COURSE HE WAS! HE BECAME THE JACKAL TO SEEK HIS REVENGE ON YOU!



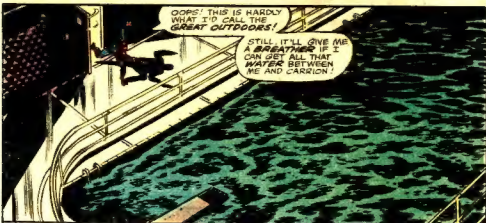
AGAIN CARRION'S REVEALED KNOWLEDGE OF SOMETHING NO ONE SHOULD BE AWARE OF!



BUT WHILE DARTER FREES HIMSELF...



BUT THE JOKE CATCHES IN THE WALL-CRAWLER'S THROAT FOR NO SOONER DOES THE RED DUST CONTACT THE GYM'S BLEACHERS--





A FOOLHARDY  
HOPE, PARKER--  
AND ONE DOOMED  
TO FAILURE!



BLAST! I FORGOT  
HE CAN TELEPORT  
HIMSELF AS WELL AS  
LEVITATE! HE'S  
HOVERING RIGHT  
ABOVE ME!

INSECT!



SWOK!

UNGH!

IT AMUSES ME TO SEE  
YOU SUFFER THIS WAY,  
PARKER!

YEAH! I LIKE A  
SADIST WHO'S  
HAPPY IN HIS  
WORK!



BUT I GUESS THE SENSE OF  
HUMOR GOES WITH YOUR  
DECAYING PERSONALITY.  
HUH, UGLY?



MILES WARREN  
SHOULD'D HAVE DESTROYED  
YOU WHILE HE HAD YOU IN HIS  
POWER, WALL-CRAWLER!

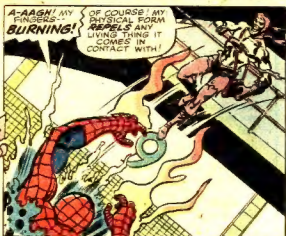
BUT HIS MISTAKE  
WILL SOON BE  
RECTIFIED!



WRACK!

A-AAGH! MY  
FINGERS--  
BURNING!

OF COURSE! MY  
PHYSICAL FORM  
REPELS ANY  
LIVING THING IT  
COMES IN  
CONTACT WITH!



W-WATER'S COOLING THE  
BURN! LORD--HOW CAN I  
FIGHT SOMEBODY I  
CAN'T EVEN TOUCH?



NIX! SCRATCH THAT KIND  
OF THINKING, WEBHEAD!  
CARRION WANTS YOU TO  
THINK IT'S HOPELESS!



WHICH IT  
MAY WELL  
BE-- BUT  
I'VE NEVER  
BEEN A  
QUITTER!  
NOPE-- US  
SPIDER-MEN  
MAY GET  
KNOCKED  
DOWN...



BUT WE  
ALWAYS COME  
BACK UP  
SWIMMING!



AND NOW IT'S EL  
DISGUSTO'S TURN  
TO DROP INTO THE  
DRINK!



ARGH! I-I FORGOT  
THAT MY FINGERS  
WERE STILL  
BLISTERED!

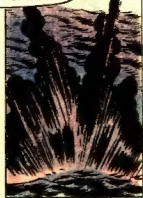


H-HAVING  
TROUBLE  
CLING-  
ING!



CAN  
BARELY  
HOLD  
ON,  
AND  
EH

THE--THE WATER IN THE  
POOL--IT'S TURNING...  
**BLACK!** STARTING TO  
FROTH--TO BOIL! IT'S--



I WARNED YOU, WALL-  
CRAWLER--IT IS MY **NATURE**  
TO REPULSE **ORGANIC**  
**MATTER**... BE IT SOLID  
OR LIQUID!

I'VE GOTTA HAND IT  
TO YA, RAGS--YOU'RE  
THE MOST **REPULSIVE**  
BADDIE I'VE EVER  
HADDA FIGHT!

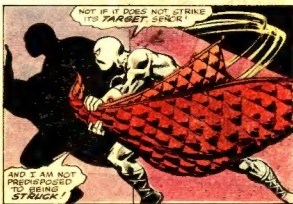


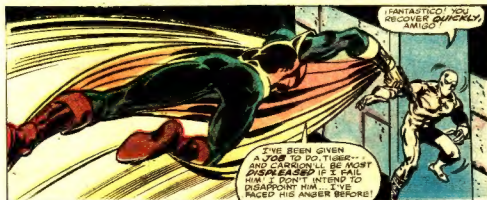
HAVE ANY  
OTHER TRICKS UP  
YOUR DECOMPOSING  
SLEEVE--OR ARE  
YOU PLANNING ON  
RESTING YOUR  
REPUTATION ON  
YOUR ABILITY  
TO **EMPTY**  
SWIMMING  
POOLS?

HARDLY, INSECT! THE  
**FUN** HAS MERELY BEGUN!



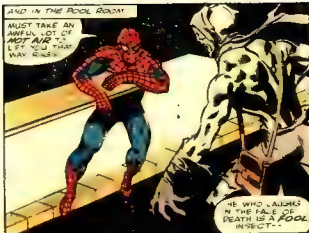
MEANWHILE, IN THE MAIN GYMNASIUM...





AND IN THE POOL ROOM

MUST TAKE AN  
AWFUL LOT OF  
HOT AIR TO  
LET YOU THAT  
WAY RISE



HE WHO LAUGHS  
IN THE FACE OF  
DEATH IS A FOOL  
INSECT--

FOR THE  
LAST  
LAUGH  
WILL FALL  
TO  
CARRION!

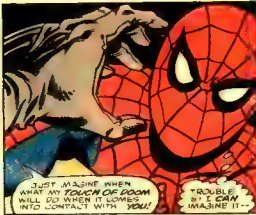


NOT IF I  
CAN COVER  
YOUR JAWNS  
WITH A SLOB  
OF WEBBING  
PRETTY BOY

ALAS YOU  
CANNOT!



FOR YOUR  
ABSURD WEB FLUID  
CRUMBLES TO DRY  
PASTE BEFORE IT EVER  
REACHES TO TARGET

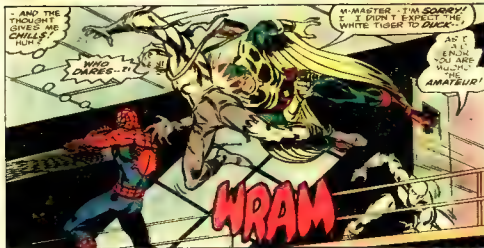


JUST IMAGINE WHEN  
WHAT MY TOUCH OF DOOM  
WILL DO WHEN IT COMES  
INTO CONTACT WITH YOU!

TROUBLE  
IS I CAN  
IMAGINE IT--

AND THE  
THOUGHT  
GIVES ME  
CHILLS!  
HUM?

WHO  
DARES--!!

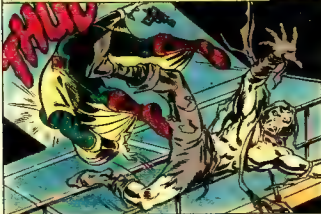


M-MASTER - I'M SORRY!  
I DIDN'T EXPECT THE  
WHITE TIGER TO DUCK--

AS I  
ALL  
ENJOY  
YOU ARE  
WORTH  
THE  
AMATEUR!

WRAM

JARRER'S MAD FLIGHT CARRIES BOTH HE AND JARRON TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE NOW-EMPTY SWIMMING POOL.



WHILE THE WHITE TIGER LEAPS TO AID SPIDER-MAN!







MEANWHILE IN THE SOUTH BRONX TENA-  
MENT APARTMENT OF THE AYALA  
FAMILY--

HECTOR--?



BUT AS THE HOURS PASS INTO MORNING--



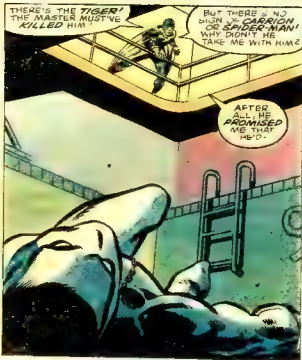
WHICH, OF COURSE, IS EXACTLY  
WHAT HECTOR AYALA'S DONE!

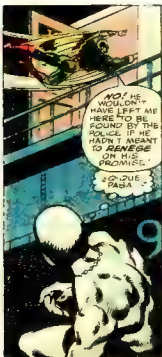
OH--MY HEAD! MUST'VE  
COLLIDED WITH THE  
POOL WALL!

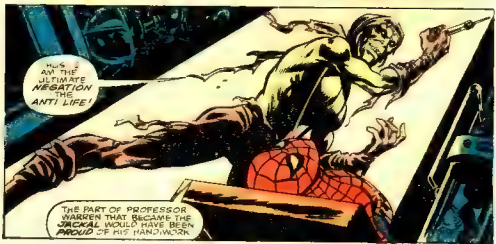
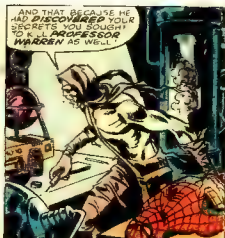
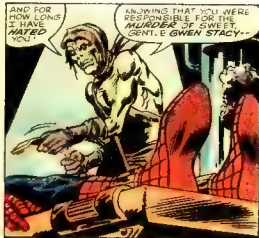


THERE'S THE **TIGER!**  
THE MASTER MUST'VE  
KILLED HIM!

BUT THERE'S NO  
SIGN OF **CARRION**  
OR **SPIDER-MAN!**  
WHY DIDN'T HE  
TAKE ME WITH HIM?







HOW HIS FORESIGHT  
IS TO BE ADMIRERD--  
HIS GENIUS TO  
BE PRAISED!

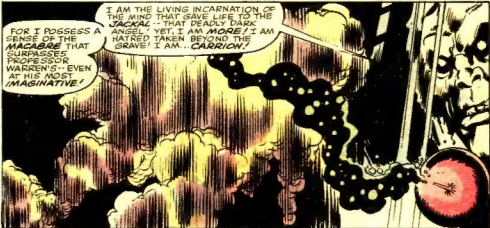


FOR I MERELY CARRY  
OUT THE WORK HE  
BEGAN-- ALBEIT WITH A  
FEW FLOURISHES OF  
MY OWN INCORPORATED  
INTO THE GRAND  
DESIGN!



FOR I POSSESS A  
SENSE OF THE  
MACABRE THAT  
SURPASSES  
PROFESSOR  
WARREN'S-- EVEN  
AT HIS MOST  
IMAGINATIVE!

I AM THE LIVING INCARNATION OF  
THE MIND THAT GAVE LIFE TO THE  
JACKAL-- THAT DEADLY DARK  
ANGEL-- YET, I AM MORE! I AM  
HATRED TAKEN BEYOND THE  
GRAVE! I AM... CARRION!



AND IT IS TIME, MY COSTUMED  
CAPTIVE-- THAT YOU AWAKE!



TO FACE--IN TREMBLING  
AND IN FEAR--YOUR FINAL  
FEARSONE FATE!



LINKHH

S--STILL HERE UGLY? I  
WAS H-HOPING YOU  
WERE JUST A S-BAD  
DREAM!



WORSE! I AM YOUR  
WILDEST NIGHTMARE  
PERSONIFIED, PARKER!

# BULLPEN BULLETINS

## STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hey, it's too much! You wouldn't believe the way the mail is pouring in with questions and comments about our **Marvelous TV shows!** The one query we're most frequently hit with is "How can we, the Marvel readers, make our opinions known?" Well, culture lovers, even though there are no letter columns or Bullpen Bulletins on TV, there's one foolproof way for you to broadcast your own reactions to our titanic little TV tidbits. Just write a letter or postcard with your comments, criticisms, or congratulations about our live-action shows to CBS-TV 51 West 52nd St., New York, N.Y. 10019; or, if you wanna yak about the new **Fantastic Four** Saturday morning cartoon series, mail your missive to NBC-TV 3000 West Alameda Ave, Burbank, CA 91523.

In other words, all you need do is write to the television network on which the program is presented, and remember—the mail they receive really does make a difference! Y'know, when the Dr. Strange two-hour movie was first shown on CBS a few months ago, dozens of people told me how much they enjoyed it. But when I asked if they had dropped a note to

CBS telling how they felt, not one of them had thought to do so, because they hadn't realized that their letters would matter. So, a word to the wise. (And who ever heard of an unwise Marvelite?) Your opinions really do count—but only if you let the network know!

And, speaking of letting people know, if you happen to be in or near Miami, Florida on April 7th, drop by the Holiday Inn, 110th Street and Biscayne Blvd., in North Miami, and say hello. I'll be there, whoopin' it up for ol' Marvel, as usual, at the famous Miamicon 2, which runs from April 6th through the 8th, where it's always great to greet a horde of true believers!

So, till we meet again, let's all ponder the imperishable words of Irving Forbush: "Never hassle a howling Hulk—you wouldn't like him when he's angry!" Or, as we say in the Bullpen: "Never thrike an ailing Asgardian—you wouldn't like him when he's Thor!" (Forgive me gang—it's been a tough day!)

Excelsior!

*Stan*

**ITEM!** In this column we often ramble on shamelessly about how well we're doing on various titles, and how wonderfully we've impressed ourselves with whatever new special project is on the fire at the moment. The fact is, without exception, the hype herein stems from sincere excitement about the creative endeavors we blurb, but sometimes it must seem to you that we're pushing our wares too hard. Now, we were going to start off this month's news with a wowie-kazowie rave about our impending almost-a-shoe-in TV deal for none other than **SPIDER-WOMAN**, and pat ourselves on the back for the terrific job that we've done with the character, but with our aforementioned worries in mind—well, we just can't! In many ways, we have every right to brag—after all, who can knock success? We've had terrific penciling issue after issue by Carmine Infantino, top-notch scripting by both longtime superstar Marv Wolfman and talented upstart Mark Gruenwald, and nifty inking by recent discovery Al Gordon. Even the coloring's been outstanding. What's more, the mail response has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic and the sales have been pretty good! With a TV deal in the offing, who, you may well inquire, could ask for anything more? Frankly, we could. Maybe we're crazy to want to tamper with a winner,



but there just seemed to be something missing from Spider-Woman. As any pro will tell you, something can be very good without being "right". The best art and the best wordsmithing

don't always guarantee that special magic in a series—that happy harmony in the creative effort that makes a book a standout. Not being the type of folks to settle for less than perfect, several weeks ago, Jim Shooter, Mark Gruenwald, Marv Wolfman, Jim Salicrup, and Stan the Man himself settled into Stan's office, ordered up lunch (on the company!) and spent the entire afternoon talking things out, analyzing our approach to Spider-Woman, discussing who she is, why she's that way, and how to best portray her. It was a long, exhausting brainsession—but worth it, because a lot of things fell into place! At last, we think we've got it! Spider-Woman #14 ought to be on sale soon after you read this. If you should happen to buy a copy, (and we certainly hope you will) be sure and write in and tell us how we're doing. After all, you folks out there have the final word!

**ITEM!** All humility aside, we'd like to mention that we happened to have produced a few of the best comics ever, anywhere, which are on sale right now! For instance? Well, how about **DAREDEVIL** #158, which brings you the long-awaited revelation of the secret of *Deathstalker*. Roger McKenzie wrote it, Frank Miller penciled it, Klaus Janson inked it, and, no two ways about it, it's magnificent. Another out-and-out triumph is **THOR** #283, by Roy Thomas, John Buscema and Chic Stone, featuring a tale entitled, "Suddenly...the Celestials!" Still another smash is **MICRONAUTS** #5, "The Prometheus Pit", by Bill Mantlo, Mike Golden and Joe Rubinstein. There are other great comics from Marvel this month, of course, but we'll leave for you the joy of discovering them. Check out your local newsstand. We have a hunch you'll love what you find.



**ITEM!** Just a quick parting note. Many people have written in asking just who it is who writes this crazy column. Most folks presume it's Smilin' Stan, since his is the only signature on the whole bullpen page, but, in fact, Stan writes only the soapbox part of the page. Ye Olde Editor-in-Chief pens these lines, and hereby is declared responsible for all dumb mistakes herein. So, there! The truth, at last, is out. Now can we please lay to rest the rumor that Jim Shooter has fled to Borneo babbling something about schedules?

## THE ALL NEW FANTASTIC FOUR IS HERE!

THE BOLDEST, MOST EXCITING ANIMATED ACTION SERIES IS THE SMASH HIT OF THE SEASON!



CO-PRODUCED BY MARVEL—IT'S MADE SATURDAY MORNINGS ON NBC THE PLACE TO BE! **HERBIE THE ROBOT!**





I AM VIOLENT MURDER COME  
BACK TO HAUNT YOU! I AM THE  
DEAD-- WALKING AGAIN! I AM  
VENGEANCE-- HATED--  
YOUR JUDGE AND YOUR  
EXECUTIONER!

B-BUT, WHO  
ARE YOU? AT  
LEAST TELL  
ME THAT!

FOOL! CAN  
IT BE THAT YOU  
STILL HAVE NOT  
GUESSED THE  
AWESOME  
TRUTH?

I AM THE LIVING  
CLONE OF  
PROFESSOR  
MILES  
WARREN!

AND IF THAT'S NOT  
ENOUGH, BE HERE  
NEXT ISH FOR...

**TILL DEATH DO US PART!**

## FORTY LASHES WITH A WET NOODLE DERT.

If we've said it once, we've said it a thousand times... when the Marvel Bullpen makes a mistake—they go all the way! Yet, we're referring to the two glaring errors in PPTSS #24 (*Spider-Man Night Fever*) spotted by nearly every fervent fan out there in the Merry Marvel Universe. The first faux pas—having Pete change to disco duds in a room with Harry Osborn and Flash Thompson present without either of those worthy gentlemen noticing Pete's Spider-Man costume—is unforgivable, an oversight for which writer Bill Mantlo and artist Frank Springer (not to mention the Bullpen proofreaders) accept the entire blame. No Prizes shall be awarded to all and sundry.

The second error can be explained, however lame that explanation might sound. Y'see, Bill Mantlo and Marv Wolfman have been promising for months to get both PETER PARKER and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN to relate, especially in the matter of subplots. The problem lies in the fact that Bill and Marv don't plot their respective books at the same time. So, when Bill began plotting PPTSS #24, Marv only knew that Pete wouldn't graduate because he'd be shy one credit. Marv didn't know which credit, and Bill assumed it would be an academic course for which Pete would have to stay up nights studying. Bill was as surprised as you were, Marvelites, to discover that Marv had decided that the failed course would be *gym*! It was, however, too late to correct PPTSS #24, which was already at the printers.

So, we slip and we slide, and occasionally we fall flat on our faces. Still, we can but thank all you MARVELOUS gadflies for stinging us back to our senses. Keep writing, pilgrims... we read your memorable missives—each and every one!

Dear Bill, Frank and Bob,

You know, until recently I hadn't read anything in either Spider-Man mag that even came close to rivaling the early Lee-Romita issues. Although less here in PPTSS than in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, changes are beginning to be made in Spidey's life. What the books need is a single artist, perhaps Keith Pollard or John Byrne. That seems like it might unify the two mags a bit more. Now about PPTSS #24: Poor. The art was closer to SPIDEY SUPER STORIES than even average PPTSS art. Even though I did like his Peter Parker, Frank's version of Spider-Man turned me off!

Who's the fool who came up with the Hypno-Hustler? Didn't he first appear in a Batman "Twinkies" Advertisement? (Just kidding about that last remark—but he was terrible!) In the lettercol you said something about there being more stories like this one—I hope not. But what about an all-Parker issue or three?

(By the way—I loved Pete's aversion to disco!)

Carlton Danaghe  
(No address)

We're in the process of searching for a steady artist for PPTSS, Carlton. Frank stepped in for one issue to help with a much-needed fill-in, then Jim Mooney and Frank Miller split up the art chores on our current six-part Carrion story line—but we feel the need for a single artist as much as you do. Bill came up with the Hustler one day after eating a Guacomole Burger at a local greasy spoon. He's hoping to live it down. An all-Parker issue? Well, maybe...

Dear Folks,

Sigh. I hate to do this, but let's take it point by point:

(1) The derivation of the word "disco" comes from the fact that

these establishments play round, flat vinyl discs called phonograph records. With very few exceptions, they do *not* hire a live band.

(2) In order to be heard at any distance greater than 10 inches, an electric guitar must be plugged into an amplifier and speakers. The Hypno-Hustler's wasn't.

(3) Despite the fact that four people teamed up to write one footnote on page 5, not one of those four remembered that Pete has only a gym class to make up—and you don't have to lug books home for gym (See above—Al.)

These were the most painfully obvious mistakes. The don't even touch on Pete's shocking ingratitude for his friends' surprise party, or H-H's completely unbelievable method of mind control, or the transparency of jumping on a fad like disco to squeeze out a cheap villain. The art, too, was wonderful. In a few places I could almost recognize who the people were supposed to be. In short, this issue was one big flop. The only good items were those which had nothing to do with Spider-Man at all—the fight on the subway, Peter's friends and their feelings for him.

Beppe Sabatini  
129 Gunson Street  
E. Lansing, MI 48823

Dear Guys,

Good show! PPTSS #24 was exactly what this mag should be—a rock-'em/sock-'em tale of the life and times of Peter Parker! The Hypno-Hustler looks like a Rocket Racer rip-off to me, though, a definitely sour note. The Mercy Killers made me notice, however, that Marvel really has how few super-villainesses while your competitors have tons. How about some new ones? Remember, the Frightful Four still only count three members. As for PPTSS, keep on doing what you're doing and you'll have a fan for life!

James Janis  
14 Pine Street  
Malverne, NY 11565

Dear Marvel,

From the title alone, I expected *Spider-Man Night Fever* to be an enjoyable issue—and it was! The opening was very good; it's been too long a while since we've seen Peter go into action without switching into his Spidey costume. The little touches were nice, too; the *Mets* in first place?? the appropriately dirty subway. Frank did a pretty good job.

The Hypno-Hustler was nothing but a second-rate Ringmaster, however. I'm getting annoyed with the recent super-villains with nothing going for them but a gimmick-laden costume that you guys seem to be coming up with. On the other hand, I also thought the Rocket Racer was a total dud at first, but my opinion of that character changed drastically after Marv's recent handling of him in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

Even though it wasn't among Marvel's (or Bill's) best, PPTSS #24 gets a positive rating. I enjoyed it, and isn't that what the whole schtick's about?

Ken Hart  
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Staten Island, NY 10306

Well, Marvelites, that about wraps it up for this issue. This is also your very last chance to guess at the sinister secret identity of the cadaverous Carrion (the villain who inspires more adjectives than Proposition 13!). Next ish will see the cipher solved... and the revelation may cost your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man his life!